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Summary record of the 10th meeting
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Chairman: Ms. Londoño (Vice-Chairman) (Colombia)

Contents

Agenda item 105: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (*continued*)

Agenda item 106: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*)

Agenda item 107: Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (*continued*)

Agenda item 108: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*)*

Agenda item 109: International drug control (*continued*)*

* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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In the absence of Mr. Belinga-Eboutou (Cameroon), Ms. Londoño (Colombia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 105: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly *(continued)*

Draft resolution on implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (A/C.3/58/L.9)

1. **Ms. Leyton** (Chile), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that its aim was to encourage States to implement the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development, as contained in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action. It was based on the recommendations contained in the corresponding report of the Secretary-General (A/58/172).

2. The following countries had expressed their wish to co-sponsor the draft resolution: Bangladesh, Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, the Philippines, Qatar, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Agenda item 106: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family *(continued)*

Draft resolution on cooperatives in social development (A/C.3/58/L.7)

3. **Mr. Gansukh** (Mongolia), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that it included two new elements. Paragraph 2 drew the attention of Member States to the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General for further action to promote a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives; and paragraph 9 requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the resolution focusing on the role of cooperatives in poverty eradication.

4. One small change should be incorporated in the text. Consequently, he proposed that the words "and implementing" should be added after the word "promoting" in paragraph 5 (c).

5. The following countries had expressed their wish to co-sponsor the draft resolution: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, India, Myanmar, Nigeria, Panama, Senegal, Sierra Leone and the Sudan.

Draft resolution on implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons towards a society for all in the twenty-first century (A/C.3/58/L.8)

6. **Ms. Garcia** (Philippines), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that it improved on previous resolutions by incorporating salient features of United Nations resolutions and meetings, while stressing that the issue of accessibility still needed to be addressed.

7. Several revisions had been made to the document. The seventh preambular paragraph should be deleted, the phrase "including at the community level" should be eliminated from the thirteenth preambular paragraph; and the seventeenth preambular paragraph should read: "Recognizing the need to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities worldwide, through the improvement of awareness of and sensitivity to disability issues and respect for the full enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities".

8. The following countries had expressed their wish to co-sponsor the draft resolution: Argentina, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Venezuela.

Draft resolution on policies and programmes involving youth (A/C.3/58/L.11)

9. **Ms. Faye** (Senegal), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that it reaffirmed the 10 priority areas identified in the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

10. The following countries had expressed their wish to join in sponsoring the draft resolution: Argentina, Belgium, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Finland, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Japan,

Kenya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, the Republic of Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela.

Agenda item 107: Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (*continued*)

Draft resolution on follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/C.3/58/L.10)

11. **Mr. Kadiri** (Morocco) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors and said he hoped that the informal consultations on the text already under way would lead to consensus.

Agenda item 108: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/58/3, A/58/87-E/2003/82, A/58/125, A/58/131-S/2003/703, A/58/165, 222 and 223; A/C.3/58/L.3, L.4, L.5 and L.6)

Agenda item 109: International drug control (*continued*) (A/58/3, A/58/124, A/58/131-S/2003/703 and A/58/253)

12. **Mr. Barriga** (Liechtenstein) said that the past year had been a dynamic one in the work of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. His Government was preparing to ratify the recently adopted United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and was carefully studying the proposed United Nations Convention against Corruption, which addressed issues of interest to his country's financial sector.

13. He welcomed the reform of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, particularly the strengthening of the Terrorism Prevention Branch and the closer relationship between the Office and the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the vital area of technical assistance. Such assistance should not be limited to help in preparing to ratify international instruments and drafting legislation, but must be underpinned by concrete action, such as that taken by his own Government to protect his country's financial sector from criminal activity of any kind. His Government was committed to enhancing its cooperation with the Office, particularly through the provision of expertise to combat the financing of terrorism and support for specific assistance programmes, including one designed to strengthen crime prevention in central and eastern Europe. He welcomed the outcome of the twelfth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the choice of topics for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, such as transnational organized crime, corruption and financial crimes.

14. As far as drug control was concerned, it was clear that international cooperation needed to be strengthened, not only to cut the supply of illegal drugs but also to reduce demand. His Government was actively trying to reduce demand for both legal and illegal drugs, in the belief that the criminalization and marginalization of drug users could only be avoided if suitable social structures and functioning family units were in place and sufficient educational and employment opportunities were available in an atmosphere of tolerance and mutual respect. However, such action at the national level needed to be complemented by international cooperation.

15. **Mr. Mercado** (Philippines) said that transnational crime undermined political and economic systems and the social fabric in many countries and would be a defining issue for the policy makers of the twenty-first century. He welcomed the expansion of technical-assistance activities undertaken by the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme in the areas of greatest concern to Member States, and noted that the successful Philippine pilot project under the Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings would undoubtedly be beneficial in guiding his country's future anti-trafficking efforts. However, technical assistance was just one step in combating transnational crime: Governments also needed to take legislative and other action. In that respect, the Philippines had adopted a tough new law against trafficking in persons and had ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and two of its protocols.

16. His Government's determination to tackle the problem of illegal drugs was evident in the passage of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, the establishment of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and a presidential initiative to set up a multi-agency task force to help the Agency eliminate illegal drug syndicates. In its first year of operation, the Agency had seized large quantities of drugs and the

number of drug-traffickers arrested had risen significantly; it was expected to produce even better results in combination with the task force. Nevertheless, a successful campaign against transnational crime depended on coordinated and complementary efforts by Member States and the international community.

17. **Ms. Otiti** (Uganda) said that the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime had underscored, in his opening statement, the urgent need for international cooperation in the fight against crime, and that the call by the Secretary-General to strengthen, inter alia, the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders could not have been more timely. The adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and other work in the areas of corruption, crime prevention and criminal justice were a clear testament to the need for the international community to work together if progress was to be made in dealing with those problems.

18. Terrorism had caused untold suffering in East Africa, as in many other parts of the world. The East African Community had therefore taken a number of measures to combat crime, including illicit drug-trafficking, and would work together with the United Nations to strengthen the international response to crime in general. She called on the international community to help Uganda put an end to the reign of terror by terrorist groups in many parts of the country.

19. Her Government was tackling crime and corruption through good governance and decentralization policies, but still faced major obstacles and needed help to overcome them. Measures were needed to eradicate poverty and alleviate the debt problem; the least developed countries needed assistance to allow them to participate in the preparatory meetings preceding the drafting of international legal instruments; staff from developing countries needed training in law enforcement and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme needed to broaden its technical-assistance activities to cover more countries. In her view, crime was not only a violation of human rights, but also an obstacle to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals: the links in the chain that connected crime at the national, regional and international levels must be broken.

20. **Mr. Cumberbatch Miguén** (Cuba) said that international organized crime had reached such proportions that no country could tackle it alone. International criminals had taken full advantage of new information technologies, improvements in transport, the liberalization of financial markets and other factors to increase trafficking in women and girls for the purposes of sexual exploitation and the smuggling of arms and drugs. Meanwhile, money-laundering and terrorism continued to flourish. International cooperation in support of national efforts to combat such crimes must be based on strict observance of international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

21. In that respect, he welcomed the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the completion of negotiations on the draft United Nations Convention against Corruption, which took national differences into account and which should complement, not override, national measures. One of the main virtues of the latter Convention was that it recognized that corruption was not just a problem within Governments but also affected the private sector and political activities such as campaign financing. Recent corporate scandals in developed countries had shown how important combating corruption could be for a country's economy. In fact, the most serious problems with corruption in recent years had involved banks in developed countries, which, by taking advantage of the money deposited with them, effectively colluded in the corruption occurring in the developing world.

22. While the drafting of international instruments was a necessary step in combating organized crime, no single country had the right to impose its wishes or views on other countries during negotiations on the draft. It was unacceptable for the United States to accuse Cuba of not working to stop the illegal trafficking in persons when it allowed tens of thousands of women and children to cross its borders to be exploited in the basest possible manner, when it was itself home to millions of illegal immigrants living in dire conditions and when, moreover, it applied the discriminatory Cuba Adjustment Act to Cubans entering the United States illegally, thus encouraging Cubans to risk their lives leaving the country. In addition, the United States Government had turned down three agreements proposed by Cuba on tackling the illegal trafficking in persons, cooperating in the

fight against terrorism and working together to combat drug trafficking.

23. Nevertheless, and in spite of the economic problems caused by the trade embargo imposed on it, Cuba — where corruption was virtually non-existent — had a fine record of tackling crimes such as money-laundering, information or technology piracy, arms trafficking, drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, thanks to its commitment to public service in the true sense, which implied governing with integrity, efficiency, transparency and accountability. His country's forthcoming membership in the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would be an opportunity for it to demonstrate its political will to contribute to the international community's efforts to eradicate international organized crime.

24. **Ms. Tomar** (India) welcomed the measures taken to reorganize the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The work of its Terrorism Prevention Branch was particularly important and more budgetary resources should be provided urgently to enhance its capacity. Terrorism could never be justified on any grounds whatsoever and her Government had consistently supported all efforts to combat it. Such efforts must be comprehensive and sustained and must encompass States that sponsored or supported it or gave safe haven to terrorists. The measures taken by her Government to prevent and combat terrorism included bilateral and regional arrangements, but terrorism was a global phenomenon that needed to be tackled at the global level. The close connection between international terrorism and transnational organized crime, the trade in illicit drugs, money-laundering and the illegal movement of weapons needed to be monitored carefully; for that reason, she welcomed the introduction of the Global Programme against Terrorism by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Given the need for strengthened international cooperation, she also welcomed the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which India had already ratified, and the successful conclusion of negotiations on the draft United Nations Convention against Corruption. The bilateral agreements entered into by India to combat terrorism and organized crime were supported by strong domestic legislation, including its Money Laundering Act, 2002.

25. With regard to narcotic drugs, India was fully committed to the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, and had taken significant steps to achieve the targets set out in the Declaration. However, national efforts could not deal comprehensively with the drug problem: international cooperation, including treaties covering extradition, mutual legal assistance and cooperation in the field of law enforcement, were essential if drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism were to be eradicated.

26. **Mr. Popkov** (Belarus) said that his delegation was seriously concerned by the rise in transnational organized crime, which called for urgent action on the part of the international community and more extensive technical cooperation between States. Global recognition of relevant United Nations standards was also all the more important. Belarus, for its part, had deposited its instruments of ratification of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and two of the protocols thereto. Not only was the country increasingly prone to illicit migration and trafficking in persons, especially women, but it was also a transit country for drugs, including significant amounts of heroine being trafficked to Western European countries. In the area of crime prevention, appropriate measures were being implemented by law-enforcement agencies, and the necessary legal basis was being established at the national level. However, further cooperation was required at the bilateral, regional, subregional and international levels. The significant rise in domestic drug consumption had also exacerbated the spread of HIV/AIDS, and abuse of amphetamine-based psychotropic substances was also on the increase. A State programme of comprehensive measures to combat the abuse of and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for the period 2001-2005 was currently being implemented.

27. **Mr. Vixay** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that five years after the adoption of the Political Declaration and the Declaration on the Guiding Principles on Drug Demand Reduction some satisfactory results had been recorded. However, the main concern was still drug-demand reduction, because of the difficulties in implementing the related Action Plan caused by inadequate technical assistance and, more particularly, financial constraints. Greater technical and financial assistance and concerted efforts

by all States had become crucial through the globalization of the illicit drugs trade.

28. Regarding follow-up to the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, by adopting the balanced approach for drug control his country was on track for eradication of poppy cultivation by 2006. The National Commission for Drug Control Supervision had taken a number of steps to reduce demand and poppy cultivation, and had enforced laws and regulations against drug traffickers, as confirmed by the reference by the Executive Director of UNODC to the outstanding achievements in the Golden Triangle and by the Secretary-General's recognition that poppy cultivation had been reduced by some one fifth over the previous year. The 2003 national opium survey showed that the surface used for poppy cultivation had been halved and that the 2005 target was attainable, all owing to the Government's firm commitment to end opium-poppy cultivation and addiction, but provided the necessary technical and financial assistance was forthcoming.

29. Despite those successes, the Lao People's Democratic Republic still served as a transit country, especially for amphetamine-type stimulants, abuse of which was escalating. A drug-demand-reduction programme was being developed and focused on preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation, and on law enforcement, so as to address the problem of increasing addiction to methamphetamines among the young, which had spread from urban areas to the traditional opium-producing and consuming provinces. A great deal remained to be done regarding a drug-control legal framework. The country was improving its legislation to move closer to meeting the requirements for accession to the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. However, the process had been hindered by the backlog of laws and regulations urgently required for socio-economic development and awaiting promulgation by the National Assembly.

30. **Mr. Ahmed Memon** (Pakistan), while acknowledging States' primary responsibility for preventing and combating crime, said that, since organized crime exploited the advances in communication technology and relaxed border controls, it was increasingly difficult for States to deal with such activity, which although occurring outside their borders, affected them adversely. In that regard, the United Nations had a central role to play. Universal adherence to and faithful implementation of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols and the three drug-control conventions remained imperative for vanquishing the twin menaces of drugs and crime.

31. His delegation welcomed UNODC's array of activities against money-laundering, corruption and trafficking in human beings, as well as commending its Terrorism Prevention Branch, which offered assistance to Member States with a view to ratification of the 12 relevant international instruments, but did not monitor their implementation, a task exclusive to the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council, for which reason it would be counterproductive to attempt to proliferate anti-terrorism activities in other United Nations bodies.

32. In order to redress the hindrance to the independent functioning of UNODC caused by the preponderance of project-specific contributions by major donors and to enable it to fulfil its proper mandates, UNODC's share of the regular budget must be increased and donors urged to contribute more towards the general-purpose funds rather than dictate the Office's operations to suit their priorities or political considerations. Moreover, since fighting money-laundering and the criminal economy formed a major part of strategies against organized crime, thought should be given to the desirability of a stand-alone instrument against money-laundering negotiated under the aegis of the United Nations and focusing on immunities offered to illegitimate money in the form of offshore jurisdictions and bank secrecy, which hampered investigation and confiscation procedures.

33. He welcomed the finalization of the draft Convention against Corruption, the first instrument of its kind to provide for the return of assets derived from corruption to the countries or origin, placing the accent equally on the preventive and law-enforcement aspects of the fight against corruption. His own Government had established a National Accountability Bureau and had reduced corruption and recovered some $3 billion.

34. Political resolve at the national level and collective international efforts would further build on the already significant achievements in the fight against drugs. Pakistan had been a zero poppy-cultivation country for several years, owing to its combination of law enforcement and alternative-

development initiatives, thus demonstrating that political will, together with sound policies and appropriate implementation structures, were a prerequisite for success. Geographically ideal as an opium-smuggling point, Pakistan had enhanced its law-enforcement capacity and had seized 100,000 kg of illicit narcotics, in 2002, and 33,000 kg in the first six months of 2003, a clear illustration of the drug risks to which it was exposed. However, new patterns and trends called for timely action, and special attention must be paid to the rising tide of illicit production and use of and trafficking in synthetic drugs and their precursors, while certain regions' lenient policies obstructed demand-reduction strategies.

35. A sustained national and international multi-pronged strategy should be the cornerstone of the fight against drugs and required addressing related menaces, such as terrorism, money-laundering and violent crime. To that effect, Pakistan remained committed to forging effective international partnerships.

36. **Mr. Stamate** (Romania) said that trafficking in drugs and human beings not only affected many lives, but, through its links to terrorism and other transnational criminal activities, represented threats to national and regional security and stability. Drug trafficking could be addressed only through coordinated national, regional and international action. As emphasized in the statement delivered by the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, UNODC must receive appropriate funding that would enable it to preserve its central role in global coordination of counter-narcotic activities. In view of the potential danger posed by drug trafficking and abuse in central and eastern European countries in transition, Romania had adopted legislation and established institutions to prevent and contain their proliferation.

37. On the basis of the 2003-2004 national anti-drug strategy and with the generous help of the European Union, the Government had recently created, under the supervision of the Ministry of Administration and Internal Affairs, the National Anti-Drug Agency, a specialized body to coordinate the activities of official anti-drug agencies and monitor cooperation with like institutions abroad. The strategy's first priority was to reduce demand by preventing corruption, but also through medical and psychological assistance, rehabilitation and social reintegration of victims. The second objective was to reduce supply by 30 per cent by 2005, by enhancing law enforcement and strengthening international cooperation.

38. The Government was currently training anti-narcotics police officers and had created a large network of local centres for prevention of drug consumption and victim counselling. Civil society had also emerged as a major player in raising awareness of the vicious consequences of youth drug abuse. Parliament had been prompt in consolidating drug legislation by ratifying all relevant international drug-control conventions and increasing penalties for drug-related crime, and new legal institutions had been incorporated into Romanian legislation in order to extirpate traffic networks.

39. The Government was aware that its efforts to contain trafficking in human beings would not bear fruit unless the international community committed material, human and financial resources for the implementation of integrated policies and fostered common approaches with regional partners. Countries of origin, transit and destination were all to be held responsible for that modern form of slavery. Those who created victims and those who profited from their suffering and humiliation must be severely punished; Governments that failed to do so were accomplices to that horrendous crime. For that reason, Romania adopted a proactive stand against human trafficking, especially trafficking in women, by developing joint projects with its neighbours.

40. With enhanced law enforcement, arrests and prosecutions relating to human trafficking had increased during the previous year, with special emphasis on regional cooperation through the regional centre for combating trans-border crime located in Bucharest, and on bilateral cooperation for developing common actions. Training seminars had been conducted nationwide, and social-science and education inspectors, counsellors, and teachers had been trained under a cooperation programme of the Ministry of Education and Research and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Trafficking-awareness campaigns were held in schools, study of the phenomenon was compulsory in theological colleges, and the Romanian Orthodox Church disseminated information throughout the local community.

41. New shelters for trafficking victims would soon be in place, and a handbook would shortly be published

in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme. The focus in 2004 would be on corruption in law-enforcement agencies, with intensified prosecution of traffickers and seizure and confiscation of assets, which would be used for the benefit of trafficking victims. Also, joint training programmes for police officers and prosecutors would continue with a view to improving investigations and prosecutions, and preventive and social-integration measures for victims would be established. A free hotline for counselling and assisting potential or actual victims would also be set up.

42. **Ms. Pham Thi Kim Anh** (Viet Nam) said the pertinent reports of the Secretary-General provided a clear picture of the main development of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme over the previous year, as well as an overview of progress worldwide in implementing the Political Declaration. Her delegation also commended the Executive Director of UNODC for his informative presentation and report.

43. She hailed the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the successful conclusion of negotiations on the draft Convention against Corruption, which attested to the international community's determination to combat such crimes, suggesting a new framework for international cooperation. It was nevertheless disturbing that, with the change in scope of traditional crimes, new forms of criminal behaviour had emerged, such as trafficking in human beings, a scourge that called for intensive regional and international cooperation. In that regard, her country received technical assistance from UNODC, including a project for enhancing existing mechanisms against such trafficking by increasing investigation and prosecution capacity, networking between law enforcers and the judiciary, and personnel training.

44. The drug problem, a major challenge to humankind, also undermined efforts to combat poverty and foster economic growth and well-being. Accordingly, the sizeable reduction of opium and coca cultivation in Asia and the Andean countries betokened the determination of countries worldwide, including her own, to implement the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and Alternative Development. Having drastically reduced illicit cultivation to very low levels by 2002, Viet Nam had continued to make progress towards its eradication, hand in hand with socio-economic programmes to help residents improve their living standards and so prevent their return to illicit cultivation.

45. The country had also intensified its international cooperation: earlier in 2003 it had received a mission from the International Narcotics Control Board; a project agreement with UNODC to curtail drug trafficking had been submitted to the Government for approval; and in September it had hosted the annual subregional conference of ministers on cooperation in combating drugs. While supply reduction was essential, demand reduction played an equal role and required long-term national efforts to change attitudes and behaviour patterns, through integrated, resolute measures and serious international cooperation.

46. **Mr. Solorzano Arce** (Nicaragua) said that corruption had undermined the foundations of democracy and constituted a violation of the right to social development. Nicaragua was attempting to punish those involved in corruption and recover State funds which had been diverted, while cooperating with the other countries in the region in their struggle against that scourge. The international community must make action against terrorism and corruption an ongoing priority. His delegation therefore welcomed the completion of negotiations on the draft Convention against Corruption, which would provide an important reference point for international cooperation in mutual legal assistance, combating money-laundering and recovery of assets.

47. His Government maintained a policy of zero tolerance towards corruption. It saw protection of human rights as including the restoration to its people of assets diverted through corruption, and also believed that moral renewal in Nicaraguan society would ensure that future generations would control its political, economic and social direction. Social development was not possible without morality and transparency, and it was essential to instil a sense of honesty in the country's youth.

48. As for drug abuse and trafficking, such activity compromised the ability of a small country like Nicaragua to confront transnational criminal groups, which had a great deal of economic power and sophisticated methods at their disposal. Because of its location between the main producers and consumers of illicit drugs, traffickers were attempting to turn Central

America into a strategic area for transit and stockpiling of their wares. Nicaragua had responded to the situation by developing a national plan of action and would fight to achieve the goal of a world free from drugs.

49. **Ms. Taracena-Secaira** (Guatemala) said that her delegation associated itself with the statement of Peru on behalf of the Rio Group. As a transit country for drug trafficking, Guatemala had seen its young democracy undermined and its ability to reach its development goals affected. Therefore, it had ratified a number of international treaties in that area in addition to enacting domestic legislation.

50. Guatemala had made progress in combating money-laundering, and had fulfilled 22 of the 25 criteria established by the Financial Action Task Force. When the remaining three criteria which were in the process of final implementation, had been met, it would be removed from the list of non-cooperating countries. The Congress was in the process of adopting legislation to comply with the International Convention on the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. In July 2003, Guatemala had become an official member of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, an important step forward in international cooperation. It was also working to enhance coordination among its National Civil Police, the Public Prosecutor's Office and the judicial branch. Those efforts had led to investigations resulting in the arrest of nearly 100 suspected drug traffickers and the seizure of large amounts of cocaine and illegal revenue.

51. Despite that progress, her Government was concerned at the increasing violence and economic power of drug traffickers and their ties with international organized crime. It was determined to fight the consumption, production and stockpiling of and illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in order to create a better world.

52. **Mr. Saranga** (Mozambique) said that his delegation aligned itself with the statement of Zambia on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). To cope with the challenge posed by the increasingly complex relationship of drugs and crime, new and comprehensive measures and policies must be implemented worldwide. His Government had demonstrated its commitment to meeting that challenge by acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols. It had also participated actively in the negotiations on the draft Convention against Corruption, which represented a landmark in efforts to build a global response to international organized crime and corruption.

53. The political will demonstrated at the international level was being translated into domestic measures to combat corruption and strengthen regional cooperation against organized crime. A recent meeting of police chiefs of the southern Africa region had recommended that States of the region should enhance their cooperation and urged them to harmonize working methods in combating transboundary crime.

54. **Archbishop Migliore** (Observer for the Holy See) said that his delegation noted with special concern the links between the illicit drug trade and other human tragedies such as trafficking in human beings, the proliferation of small arms, organized crime and terrorism. Developing countries and populations afflicted by poverty were particularly vulnerable to the trickle-down effects of the drug trade, as easy trafficking points or inexpensive cultivators of source crops. His delegation thus welcomed development projects that offered farmers viable alternatives to drug cultivation. The problem of drug cultivation and trafficking was not unrelated to the issues of sustainable human development as envisioned in the Millennium Development Goals.

55. The alarming upward trend in the production and abuse of synthetic drugs and amphetamine-type stimulants, especially by young people, must be reversed, especially since their permanent health effects, including impairment of brain function, were not fully understood. His delegation also agreed with the Executive Director of UNODC on the importance of demand-reduction measures that took a balanced and integrated approach.

56. The family played a major role in prevention of drug abuse, and the effects of such abuse on the family structure weakened the social fabric and could even destabilize a society. The family was the first environment where a child learned habits and behaviour, and parental involvement in children's daily activities contributed to healthy social behaviour. The simple act of parents sharing a meal regularly with children had proven effective in reducing the likelihood of experimentation with drugs. In preparation for the observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004, his delegation encouraged

UNODC to work closely with the Social Policy Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in order to share experiences and findings that could strengthen the central role of the family in drug prevention.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.